

can finally commemorate the anniversary with the knowledge that the Government of the United States, led by President Joseph Robinette Biden, has recognized the truth of the Armenian genocide at last.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, I mentioned that the DNA of the far-left Green New Deal is all over President Biden's spending bills. That wasn't just my opinion; it was the verdict of our colleague the junior Senator from Massachusetts.

Today, the President is scheduled to meet virtually with a group of the world's leaders on climate policy. His agenda, reportedly, is to encourage them to expand their countries' Paris climate agreement commitments to meet even more ambitious emissions goals. The problem, of course, as our colleagues, no doubt, remember, is that the hollow commitments these countries made back in 2015 carry no serious means for enforcement.

Under the last administration, even from outside this agreement, the U.S. economy proved more than capable of meaningfully reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But many of the signatories within the supposed deal have largely ignored their stated commitments and continue to emit with reckless abandon.

As the Biden administration climate envoy, John Kerry, once lamented, "[M]ost countries are . . . not getting the job done in living up to Paris." China, for example, has just kept emitting more and done it shamelessly. Their share of greenhouse gas emissions is now nearly double—double—that of the United States.

On a recent trip to Shanghai, Kerry tried to echo President Biden's encouragement on emissions reduction, but the kid-gloves approach didn't seem too successful. China's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs said: "I'm afraid this is not very realistic." A direct quote from the Chinese Government.

Democrats' zeal for imposing costly environmental agendas on our own country is not something our biggest foreign competitors seem to share. If that is true, our colleagues could inflict as many painful policies on American workers and American industries as they want and still not achieve a

significant change in worldwide emissions or global temperatures.

The cost of these misplaced priorities is already hitting Americans hard. Remember, revoking permitting for the Keystone XL Pipeline and killing thousands of jobs was a day-one priority for this new administration. Now their so-called infrastructure plan would aim at completely decarbonizing our electric grid, which means hurting our coal and natural gas industries and putting good-paying American jobs into the shredder.

Borrowing money in order to kill jobs, now, there is a concept. Meanwhile, a mountain of redtape would keep public works projects smothered, literally smothered in endless environmental reviews, and their plan would thrust the west coast obsession with electric vehicles onto the entire Nation, onto rural school districts, onto industries, whether they like it or not.

Next week, President Biden is set to address a joint session of Congress for the first time. I expect we will hear more claims like the ones that have been debunked by fact checkers that all this Green New Deal DNA would actually create a lot of American jobs. Fact checkers are debunking that claim.

But even the most favorable analyses, even the administration's favorite projections, suggest that the President's plan would be terrible, just terrible at creating jobs. The rosier numbers you could come up with suggest it might cost American taxpayers more than \$800,000 for every job it might create—more than \$800,000 per job.

And Ivy League economists have calculated that the plan's long-term effects on GDP, capital stocks, and hourly wages would all be negative. Let me say that again. These multiple trillions of dollars would buy us less GDP, less investment, and lower wages. It almost takes talent to craft something that completely disastrous.

So this is quite a one-two punch: toothless requests of our foreign adversaries and maximum pain for American citizens.

#### ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, earlier this week, the Democratic leadership of the Judiciary Committee convened a hearing with the embarrassing title of "Jim Crow 2021." It was the latest effort to use shocking rhetoric to distract from the specific details of actual voting laws in States like Georgia.

Amazingly, one of our Democratic colleagues testified before the committee that people actually shouldn't bother combing through the specifics of the law—don't bother reading the actual law. He suggested that "narrow analysis only obscures the larger, unmistakable picture." Put another way, the facts deflate the narrative.

Misrepresentations of Georgia's election law have been debunked by fact

checkers. The real, unmistakable picture is that the bill would expand early voting and make no changes to current election day hours—none. Ironically, Democrats' own star witness at this week's hearing once sponsored and supported an earlier effort that would have cut early voting days in Georgia in half.

The facts puncture the left's big lie. Much of this overheated rhetoric seems like simple projection because there is, indeed, a piece of legislation that would create a stunning one-party takeover of voting laws and elections in our country, and that would be Washington Democrats' darling, H.R. 1. This is the bill that was first introduced back in 2019, with many Democrats still in denial that a Republican had won the White House in 2016.

It was marketed at that time as a wholesale transformation designed to salvage a broken democracy. But now that Democrats got an election outcome they liked better in 2020, what is essentially a xerox copy of the same overhaul is now being marketed, oh, as a modest step, just a modest step to maintain the status quo.

The first sales pitch was actually more honest. This 800-plus-page takeover would give Washington Democrats unprecedented control over 50 States' election laws, over a newly—listen to this—a newly partisan Federal Election Commission, over policing America's political speech. That is what it would do.

Now, Democrats know that the same Senate rules they happily used for the last 6 years will not make it easy to launch this awful proposal, so there is another important piece in their plan. They are aiming the same wild rhetoric at the Senate's own rules—at our rules here in the Senate.

The legislative filibuster which senior Democrats have loudly and proudly defended in the past, which Democrats used repeatedly in recent years, all of a sudden has become an offensive and outdated relic overnight. Isn't it amazing how this new awakening only happened when Democrats felt they had a chance to retake the majority.

Now, the American people can see right through this. Nobody is fooled. Nobody is fooled by their desperation to rewrite 50 States' election laws or the campaign to pack the Supreme Court or the attempt to pack the Senate with new blue States, rewriting the rules of American politics to exclusively benefit one side: their side. That was the Democrats' false charge in Georgia, but it is exactly what they are trying to do in this Capitol on a national scale.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 937, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 937) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Hirono/Collins) amendment No. 1445, of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1456, 1425, AND 1458 TO  
AMENDMENT NO. 1445

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order be executed with respect to the reporting of the three amendments under the consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ] proposes an amendment numbered 1456 to amendment No. 1445.

The amendment is, as follows:

[Purpose: To prohibit Federal funding for any institution of higher education that discriminates against Asian Americans in recruitment, applicant review, or admissions]

At the end, add the following:

#### SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) may receive any Federal funding if the institution has a policy in place or engages in a practice that discriminates against Asian Americans in recruitment, applicant review, or admissions.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. LEE, proposes an amendment numbered 1425 to amendment No. 1445.

The amendment is, as follows:

[Purpose: To require a report on State restrictions on religious exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic]

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

#### SEC. 3. REPORT ON RELIGIOUS RESTRICTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the restrictions on religious exercise imposed by States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and any other territory

or possession of the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required to be submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of whether the same restrictions applied to religious institutions also applied equally to secular organizations or businesses; and

(2) an analysis of whether each imposed restriction complies with the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Tandon v. Newsom*, No. 20A151, 539 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2021).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mrs. BLACKBURN] proposes an amendment numbered 1458 to amendment No. 1445.

(Purpose: To improve the bill.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 21, 2021, under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EARTH DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today is Earth Day, our planet’s largest annual civic event. More than 1 billion people in 192 nations are expected to participate in activities to draw attention to the urgency of the climate crisis and environmental degradation. From the South Side of Chicago to South America and South Asia, ordinary citizens—schoolchildren, scientists, environmental activists, business and government leaders, and others—are calling for help for our ailing planet.

This year, the most important Earth Day gathering is just 16 blocks from where we meet. At the White House today, President Biden is hosting a 2-day virtual summit of leaders from 40 Nations—leaders from the highest emitting countries, China, India, Russia, as well as leaders from countries that suffer the worst consequences, such as Bangladesh and Kenya. The leaders are coming together, after a year of staggering pandemic hardship and climate-related crises, to renew their commitment to save our planet from irreversible climate catastrophe.

With this Earth Day Leaders Summit, President Biden is sending the world a clear message: The United States is back and is ready to be a leader again in combating climate change. The White House Leaders Summit is meant to encourage countries to make strong commitments under the Paris Agreement to prevent the global average temperature from rising more than 1.5 degree Celsius above preindustrial levels. This sounds technical and dry and wonky, but here is what it means. At 1½ degrees Celsius of warming, much of the world will likely see sea level rise that swallows coast-

lines, leaves millions of homes underwater, and produces recordbreaking droughts, floods, and other climate catastrophes. Hundreds of millions of people will be pushed into poverty because of this, and climate-related famine and conflicts would trigger a global refugee crisis worse than anything we have ever seen. That is the future if we do nothing. That is something we must avoid, and the United States needs to show leadership.

President Biden does that today with this meeting. One of his first official acts as President, on his first full day in office, was starting the process of recommitting the United States to join every nation in the world in the Paris Agreement. If you will remember, the previous President decided that America would step away from that.

At the White House Leaders Summit, the President will announce a new goal: to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent by the year 2030. The Biden administration’s leadership stands in sharp contrast to what we have seen over the last 4 years. We saw a President withdraw from the Paris Agreement, ridicule science at every opportunity, deny the existence of a growing climate threat, and even censor the remarks of government scientists that might suggest otherwise.

Fortunately, the disengagement by the previous administration didn’t prevent the American people, scientists, real business leaders and entrepreneurs, and cities and States from ignoring President Trump and moving ahead.

There is no substitute, though, for leadership at the top. The American Jobs Plan, which President Biden plans to pass, and I hope there is support, is a plan to secure America’s global economic leadership, strengthen America’s working families, and build the infrastructure of the future we can count on. The American Jobs Plan, of course, will rebuild America’s crumbling rail lines, roads, bridges, ports, and water systems; strengthen America’s power grid; and invest in 5G broadband internet for every community in America. The previous President promised it but didn’t deliver. This President wants to deliver, with our help.

I have heard those on the floor who then criticize that part of the American Jobs Plan, which goes further. President Biden also wants to invest in green energy, wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects. To hear that described by some of his Republican critics, it is just pure socialism. Socialism? It is a realistic response to the 21st challenge of climate change. The American Jobs Plan includes billions of dollars to retrain any workers who are dislocated if they work in the fossil fuel industry and to find better, well-paying jobs with a future in clean energy and other fields. Just this week, the president of the United Mine Workers of America—a sixth generation